

THE NAVY.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

TRANSMITTING

A report showing the number of captains and commanders requisite to perform the sea-going duties of the navy, &c.

Jan 11, 1856.— Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

July 11, 1856.

Sir: The following resolution of the 19th of May last was duly received, and the various inquiries therein contained have been carefully considered with a view to responding as fully and correctly as possible:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy report to this House, with the least practicable delay, the number of captains and commanders requisite to perform the sea-going duties of the navy of the United States; said officers not to be required to perform duties ashore as long as fit to be afloat, nor to be permitted to be absent from duty on leave, or otherwise, more than a year at a time, and then only at an interval between voyages of not less than two years' duration.

"Also, the number of captains and commanders now employed on all descriptions of shore duty, and where and at what so employed, and how many would be necessary to perform such duties if confined to such employments alone, and not allowed to be absent from duty more than three months in any one year.

"Also, how many lieutenants, masters, passed midshipmen, and acting midshipmen are necessary to perform the duties of the naval service, ashore and afloat, discriminating between sea and shore service, said officers not to be allowed to be absent from duty more than three months at any one time or in any one year.

"Also, how many officers of the navy, of all grades, are waiting orders, and how many are absent from duty on leave—the names of

the officers being given in each case, with date of the application for orders, and also the date of the leave opposite, in both classes, to their respective names."

A proper response to the inquiry as to the number of captains and commanders "requisite to perform the sea-going duties of the navy of the United States," is so dependent upon the particular basis taken for the calculation, that I have deemed it proper and more satisfactory to present, not merely a single estimate, but to briefly exhibit the results produced by different aspects in which the question may be considered.

There is a law restricting the number of seamen which the department is allowed to employ to 7,500. That law was passed June 17, 1844. Now it matters not how many ships or officers we may have, nor how much our commerce may be enlarged or our coasts extended; still it will be perceived that the number of officers who can be at the same time ordered to sea-duty, is regulated and necessarily controlled by the number of national vessels which the seamen allowed can man.

But the navy has to supply the coast survey with seamen, which, when deducted, reduces the number *actually* allowed the navy proper to about 6,725. The simple question, therefore, is, how many and what class of national vessels will this number of seamen man? That being ascertained, the number of captains and commanders "requisite" to command them at sea is easily arrived at. Adopting this as one mode of elucidating the subject, I have the honor to report that it is found that there would be required (under the conditions and restrictions of the resolution) *twenty-five captains and forty-six commanders for sea service alone.*

But both my predecessor and myself have repeatedly ventured to advise Congress to authorize the employment of an additional number of seamen, for the reason that more active sea service could be given to a larger number of officers, and our commerce and coast be better protected. I think an addition of three thousand at least should be allowed. It is known that six new frigates are nearly completed, and that two which have been on the stocks since 1819 have been completed and launched. These eight new frigates will each take at least 500 men to man them. If, therefore, only 3,000 additional seamen be allowed, then the number of vessels that could be manned would require, to perform the sea-going duties alone of the navy, *thirty-six captains and sixty-six commanders.*

This, it will be recollected, applies exclusively to *sea duties* for *captains and commanders only.*

In answer to the 2d clause of the resolution, I report that there were employed, on the 24th of May, (a few days after the passage of the resolution,) on all descriptions of shore duty, nineteen captains and thirty-seven commanders. The accompanying statement A will show where and at what so employed. "If confined to such employments alone and not allowed to be absent from duty more than three months in any one year," I still believe the number above reported as on shore duty would answer the requirements of the service, there being several at present on mere temporary and special duty.

In answer to the 3d clause, I report that the number necessary for shore-service will be 100 lieutenants and 21 masters; and for service afloat, 167 lieutenants, 40 masters, and 163 passed or other midshipmen, not allowing any for relief or for an increase of seamen.

In answer to the 4th clause, I submit the accompanying statement, marked B, from which it will be seen that there were, at the date of its preparation, 35 captains, 38 commanders, and 32 lieutenants on leave, and waiting orders. No masters and acting midshipmen were off duty at that time, and there were no passed midshipmen in the service. By the operation, however, of the recent annual examination at the Naval Academy, five masters and 18 passed midshipmen are now unemployed; but their services are needed at sea, and they will be immediately ordered on duty.

The statement B also shows the dates of the applications for orders (such as were made in writing to the department) of the captains, commanders, and lieutenants on leave or waiting orders, since the commencement of their leave or waiting orders. Many applications are for the same stations. Many applications are made verbally, and are not embraced in the statement. The rule in issuing orders is, justice to each officer and to the service, and not primarily to applicants.

The department confines itself to the above grades in answer to this clause of the resolution, inasmuch as they are the only grades mentioned in the previous portions of the resolution.

The number of officers herein reported as "requisite," is entirely upon the conditions and restrictions as to absence from duty prescribed in the resolution. The views of the department, in regard to legislation called for touching the officers of the navy, are elaborately given in the annual official reports of 1853-'4-'5.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. DOBBIN.

Hon. NATHANIEL P. BANKS,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A.

Statement of the number of captains and commanders of the United States navy employed on all description of shore duty, and where and how employed.

No.	Grade.	Where employed.	How employed.
1	Captain -----	Philadelphia -----	Commandant navy yard.
1	do -----	Washington -----	Light-house Board.
1	do -----	New York -----	Special duty, connected with Japan Expedition.
1	do -----	Portsmouth, N. H.	Commandant navy yard.
1	do -----	Washington -----	Bureau of Yards and Docks.
1	do -----	Pensacola -----	Commandant navy yard.
1	do -----	Philadelphia -----	Governor naval asylum.
1	do -----	Washington -----	Special duty, preparing uniform system of watch, quarter, and station bills for vessels.
1	do -----	Boston -----	Commandant navy yard.
1	do -----	Washington -----	Do do.
1	do -----	Sackett's Harbor -----	Commanding station.
1	do -----	New York -----	Commandant navy yard.
1	do -----	Vallejo, Cal. -----	Do do.
1	do -----	Norfolk, Va. -----	Do do.
1	do -----	Annapolis, Md. -----	Superintendent naval academy.
1	do -----	Washington -----	Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography.
1	do -----	Washington -----	Light-house Board.
1	do -----	Philadelphia -----	Special duty, connected with Exploring Expedition.
1	do -----	New York -----	Special duty, connected with Stevens's war steamer.
19	Captains.		
1	Commander --	New York -----	Superintendent mail steamers.
1	do -----	Philadelphia -----	Navy yard.
1	do -----	Cambridge, Mass.	Superintendent Nautical Almanac.
1	do -----	Pensacola -----	Navy yard.
1	do -----	Philadelphia -----	Naval asylum.
1	do -----	Boston -----	Ordnance duty.
1	do -----	Norfolk -----	Do.
1	do -----	Baltimore -----	Naval rendezvous.
1	do -----	Norfolk -----	Do.
1	do -----	Boston -----	Ordnance duty.
1	do -----	Pensacola -----	Inspector of provisions, &c.
1	do -----	Washington -----	Navy yard.
1	do -----	Philadelphia -----	Ordnance duty.
1	do -----	Norfolk -----	Navy yard.
1	do -----	New York -----	Ordnance duty.
1	do -----	Boston -----	Commanding receiving-ship.
1	do -----	New York -----	Naval rendezvous.
1	do -----	Washington -----	Ordnance duty.
1	do -----	New York -----	Commanding receiving-ship.
1	do -----	New York -----	Ordnance duty.
1	do -----	Philadelphia -----	Naval rendezvous.
1	do -----	New York and Aspin-wall -----	Commanding mail steamer.
1	do -----	Boston -----	Navy yard.

A—Continued.

No.	Grade.	Where employed.	How employed.
1	Commander	Norfolk	Commanding receiving-ship.
1	do	Washington	Settling accounts as purser.
1	do	Baltimore	Commanding receiving-ship.
1	do	Philadelphia	Do do.
1	do	Annapolis	Commandant and executive officer.
1	do	New York	Navy yard.
1	do	Portsmouth, N. H.	Do.
1	do	Boston	Naval rendezvous.
1	do	Washington	Light-house Board.
1	do	do	Bureau of Construction, &c.
1	do	do	Ordnance duty.
1	do	do	Special duty, system of watch, quarter and station bills, &c.
1	do	New York and Aspin-wall	Commanding mail steamer.
1	do	New York	Light-house inspector.
37	Commanders.		

NAVY DEPARTMENT, *May 24, 1856.*

B.

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Statement, made up to the 24th May, 1856, giving the names of the captains, commanders, and lieutenants of the United States navy who are "waiting orders," or on "leave of absence," with the date of the commencement of such waiting orders or leave, respectively, and the date of their written applications for service since the commencement of waiting orders or leave.

Names.	Grade.	Waiting orders, or leave of absence.	Date of the commencement of leave, &c.	Date of applications for service.
<i>Captains, (35)</i>				
Lawrence Kearny-----	Captain-----	Waiting orders-----	October 17, 1854	None.
Francis H. Gregory-----	do-----	do-----	February 16, 1856	May 1, 1856.
E. A. F. Lavallette-----	do-----	do-----	July 11, 1853	February 27, 1854.
John H. Aulick-----	do-----	do-----	June 1, 1853	September 20, 1854.
Bladen Dulany-----	do-----	do-----	July 21, 1855	May 2, 1856.
Isaac Mayo-----	do-----	do-----	September 4, 1855	None.
Thomas A. Conover-----	do-----	do-----	April 14, 1851	Do.
Josiah Tatnall-----	do-----	do-----	April 23, 1856	April 20, 1851.
William J. McCluney-----	do-----	Leave-----	April 16, 1856	July 28, 1852.
John B. Montgomery-----	do-----	Waiting orders-----	September 22, 1853	April 6, 1853.
C. K. Stribling-----	do-----	do-----	September 13, 1855	September 28, 1855.
William C. Nicholson-----	do-----	do-----	October 19, 1855	February 9, 1856.
J. B. Hull-----	do-----	do-----	November 1, 1853	None.
John Kelly-----	do-----	do-----	April 20, 1855	Do.
William H. Gardner-----	do-----	do-----	October 10, 1855	June 12, 1855.
S. B. Wilson-----	do-----	do-----	October 23, 1855	March 20, 1856.

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R. B. Cunningham	do	do	May 1, 1854	October 13, 1855.
V. M. Randolph	do	do	August 16, 1854	None.
Frederick Engle	do	do	October 17, 1855 }	November 4, 1855.
John Rudd	do	do	September 4, 1855	January 2, 1856.
William W. McKean	do	do	April 27, 1853 }	None.
F. Buchanan	do	do	September 13, 1855	October 3, 1855.
Charles Lowndes	do	do	November 12, 1852	November 13, 1855.
George N. Hollins	do	do	October 10, 1855	None.
John Marston	do	do	July 1, 1855	October 15, 1855.
Henry A. Adams	do	do	September 29, 1855	October 12, 1855.
William S. Walker	do	do	October 10, 1855	None.
George F. Pearson	do	do	October 10, 1855	Do.
William L. Hudson	do	do	October 10, 1855	Do.
Thomas O. Selfridge	do	do	October 10, 1855	October 12, 1855.
Henry Eagle	do	do	June 14, 1855	None.
G. J. Van Brunt	do	do	May 1, 1854 }	Do.
				August 28, 1856.
				May 3, 1854.
				October 12, 1855.
				November 12, 1852.
William M. Glendy	do	do	September 22, 1852 }	February 24, 1854.
				November 3, 1854.
				October 13, 1855.
Samuel Barron	do	do	October 10, 1855	October 23, 1855.
Andrew A. Harwood	do	do	October 2, 1855	October 13, 1855.
<i>Commanders, (38.)</i>				
A. Y. Purviance	Commander	Waiting orders	November 13, 1855	None.
F. B. Ellison	do	do	July 16, 1855 }	September 26, 1855.
				March 1, 1856.
William C. Whittle	do	do	February 5, 1856	None.
Charles C. Turner	do	do	August 7, 1855	September 15, 1855.
James L. Lardner	do	do	October 29, 1855	None.
William W. Hunter	do	do	December 8, 1855	Do.
Henry K. Hoff	do	do	November 24, 1855	November 26, 1855.
A. B. Fairfax	do	do	February 9, 1856	None.
William McBlair	do	do	April 17, 1856	Do.
B. J. Totten	do	do	October 2, 1855	October 12, 1855.

B—Continued.

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Names.	Grade.	Waiting orders, or leave of absence.	Date of the commencement of leave, &c.	Date of applications for service.
<i>Commanders—Continued.</i>				
C. H. A. H. Kennedy	Commander	Waiting orders	June 1, 1855	None.
John K. Mitchell	do	do	November 16, 1855	Do.
James F. Schenck	do	do	December 13, 1852	November 24, 1855.
S. W. Godon	do	do	October 10, 1855	October 11, 1855.
William Radford	do	do	September 22, 1852	July 14, 1854.
John M. Berrien	do	do	April 28, 1856	October 21, 1855.
George A. Prentiss	do	do	June —, 1848	February 4, 1856.
Samuel P. Lee	do	do	October 10, 1855	None.
John P. Gillis	do	do	July 14, 1854	September 19, 1851.
Raphael Semmes	do	do	April 6, 1849	December 12, 1852.
J. P. McKinstry	do	do	November 22, 1855	October 20, 1855.
O. S. Glisson	do	Leave	February 29, 1856	October 10, 1855.
Charles Green	do	Waiting orders	October 11, 1855	August 7, 1854.
Melancton Smith	do	do	October 16, 1855	February 5, 1855.
Cicero Price	do	Leave	April 21, 1856	October 11, 1855.
George Minor	do	Waiting orders	October 1, 1855	August 15, 1850.
Percival Drayton	do	do	April 4, 1856	September 26, 1850.
Edward M. Yard	do	do	October 2, 1855	April 24, 1855.
Overton Carr	do	do	June 14, 1855	October 21, 1855.
				February 23, 1856.
				December 21, 1855.
				March 17, 1856.
				October 18, 1855.
				None.
				Do.
				Do.
				Do.
				Do.
				October 13, 1855.

Luther Stoddard	do	do	March 21, 1856	None.
B. M. Dove	do	do	September 4, 1855 }	October 22, 1855.
H. J. Hartstene	do	do	April 1, 1856	February 15, 1856.
Henry French	do	do	October 10, 1855	None.
Samuel Larkin	do	do	September 4, 1855	November 9, 1855.
J. L. Henderson	do	do	November 19, 1855	October 15, 1855.
D. B. Ridgely	do	Leave	April 26, 1856	March 14, 1856.
William T. Muse	do	Waiting orders	October 10, 1855	None.
Roger Perry	do	do	October 10, 1855	November 8, 1855.
				None.
<i>Lieutenants, (32.)</i>				
A. M. Pennock	Lieutenant	Waiting orders	May 20, 1856	None.
C. F. McIntosh	do	do	August 4, 1854	August 4, 1854.
William H. Ball	do	do	January 22, 1856	None.
F. B. Renshaw	do	do	October 2, 1855 }	February 11, 1856.
				February 26, 1856.
B. F. Shattuck	do	do	May 16, 1856	None.
W. Ross Gardner	do	do	March 6, 1856	Do.
M. Woodhull	do	Leave	February 20, 1856	Do.
William A. Wayne	do	Waiting orders	August 28, 1855	Do.
Francis Winslow	do	do	January 10, 1856	Do.
C. Vanalstine	do	do	April 17, 1856	Do.
J. B. Carter	do	do	March 10, 1856	Do.
J. P. Decatur	do	do	April 11, 1856	Do.
E. A. Barnett	do	do	January 17, 1856	Do.
J. G. Strain	do	do	November 16, 1855	Do.
J. Dorsey Read	do	do	December 2, 1855 }	February 5, 1856.
				May 10, 1856.
W. F. Spicer	do	Leave	October 1, 1855	April 10, 1856.
W. W. Roberts	do	Waiting orders	February 29, 1856	None.
S. Nicholson	do	do	July 27, 1855	Do.
William A. Webb	do	do	December 31, 1855	Do.
William N. Jeffers	do	Leave	May 8, 1856	May 16, 1856.
F. S. Conover	do	Waiting orders	April 30, 1856	None.
H. C. Blake	do	do	January 11, 1856	March 24, 1856.
J. M. Bradford	do	Leave	May 8, 1856	None.
J. H. Carter	do	Waiting orders	May 18, 1856	Do.

B—Continued.

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Names.	Grade,	Waiting orders, or leave of absence.	Date of the commence- ment of leave, &c.	Date of applications for service.
<i>Lieutenants—Continued.</i>				
W. L. Powell.....	Lieutenant.....	Leave.....	May 8, 1856	None.
E. Y. McCauley.....	do.....	Waiting orders.....	May 18, 1856	Do.
William H. Murdaugh.....	do.....	Leave.....	May 8, 1856	Do.
Thomas Young.....	do.....	do.....	March 11, 1856	May 20, 1856.
A. Allmand.....	do.....	Waiting orders.....	April 4, 1856	None.
R. Stuart.....	do.....	do.....	March 21, 1856	Do.
E. W. Henry.....	do.....	Leave.....	May 8, 1856	Do.
E. T. Spedden.....	do.....	do.....	March 11, 1856	Do.

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